based on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) ranged between 4.5 per cent in July, 1993 to 8.6 per cent in December, 1993 as shown below:

Year/Month	Annual Rates of Inflation(%) WPI 81-82	CPI(IW) 1982
April 1993	6.9	6.1
May	6.9	5.1
June	7.0	5.9
July	7.3	4.5
August	8.0	5.8
September	8.8	6.6
October	8.5	7.4
November	8.6	8.6
December	8.3*	8.6

*Provisional

(c) The relatively high increase in retail prices since August 1993 was mainly due to sharp increase in the prices of primary products.

False Claims for Refund of Income Tax

816. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax department have investigated into the false claims of refund made by senior employees of private sector companies by setting off salary income against bogus business losses;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved in this refund racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Currency Seized at Madras by Enforcement Directorate

817. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement Directorate, South Zone has seized foreign currencies at Madras recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken against the culprits; and

(c) what is the total quantum of foreign currency seized during 1993 by the South Zone Enforcement Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foregin Exchange worth Rs. 46.5 lakhs was seized during January and February, 1994. Appropriate action as provided under law is taken after the investigations are finalised.

(c) During the year 1993 the South Zone of the Enforcement Directorate seized foreign exchange worth Rs. 160.19 lakhs.

Foreign Exchange Earned Through International Credit Cards

818. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign tourists pay their charges of stay and travel in India through various international credit cards; if so, what measures are taken to ensure that the foreign exchange earned in this manner by the India Airlines or hotels is actualy received by the country;

(b) which are the top 10 international credit cards earning the maximum foreign exchange for India, including the earnings made by each of them; and

(c) whether any changes are proposed in the operations of these credit cards; if so, the details thereof?